

03500.012897.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph immediately before the first paragraph of the specification:

--This application is a divisional of application no. 09/128,538, filed on August 4, 1998, now US Pat. No. 6374482